

WILLINGHAM! BUCKINGHAM! LEIALOHA!

VERTIGO

FABLES

104



MY DREAM COME TRUE.

Jun '11
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ROLL CALL!



SUPER WITCH



CAPTAIN BLUEHEART



THE GOLDEN KNIGHT



WEREWOLF MAN



FIREBIRD



THE GREEN WITCH



TOWERING TITAN



TINY TITAN

F-MEN!

SOONER THAN ANYONE EXPECTED, FLYCATCHER'S BARRIER FELL AND THE MONSTER WAS LOOSE IN HAVEN.

YEAH, WE WANTED MORE TIME TO TRAIN, BUT WHO GETS EVERYTHING HE WANTS IN THIS LIFE?

CHAPTER THREE of **SUPER TEAM**



BILL WILLINGHAM writer-creator **MARK BUCKINGHAM** penciller **STEVE LEIALOHA** inker **ANDREW PEPOY** inker pp 9-11

LEE LOUGHRIDGE colors **TODD KLEIN** letters **JOAO RUAS** cover, after Maguire **GREGORY LOCKARD:** asst. ed. **SHELLY BOND:** editor



OF COURSE OUR SIMPLE STRATEGY WAS TO BLAST HIM WITH EVERYTHING AT ONCE.

SOME MILITARY SCHOLAR, OR GENERAL, OR SELF-APPOINTED KNOW-IT-ALL ONCE SAID, "NO PLAN SURVIVES CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY." MAYBE THAT'S TRUE, IF YOU HAVE A COMPLEX AND NUANCED BATTLE PLAN. BUT IF THE IDEA IS GANG UP ON ONE GUY AND JUST KEEP HITTING HIM WITHOUT LETUP, UNTIL YOU WEAR HIM DOWN--WELL, IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE HOW THAT STRATEGY CAN GET ALL FUDDLED, RIGHT?

TRUST ME. IT CAN'T.

KILL HIM!

YEAH!

I AGREE. NO FORMAL RULES OF DUELING THIS TIME! NO ETIQUETTE BEYOND THE WELL-ESTABLISHED GOSPEL OF BASE SAVAGERY!

WE'LL FIGHT UNTIL ALL BUT ONE ARE DEAD!

OKAY, THAT'S JUST STUPID!

SO THAT WAS THE TOTAL BE-ALL AND END-ALL OF OUR TACTICS. HIT HIM, HIT HIM AGAIN, AND KEEP HITTING HIM UNTIL HE RAN OUT OF GAS.

OH, AND ONE OTHER THING. WE WEREN'T GOING TO TRY TO BOX HIM UP THIS TIME. ONCE WE HAD HIM DOWN FOR THE COUNT, WE WERE DETERMINED TO FIND A WAY TO KILL HIM DEAD, DEAD, DEAD.

OF COURSE THERE WERE CASUALTIES.

IF OUR SIDE WINS, THE REST OF US AREN'T GOING TO KEEP KILLING EACH OTHER UNTIL ONLY ONE IS LEFT ALIVE.

GRINDER!

WE KNEW WE'D SUFFER LOSSES.

DON'T YOU GET IT, YOU BIG DUMMY? IT'S NOT EVERYONE AGAINST EVERYONE! IT'S EVERYONE AGAINST YOU!

TAKE US IN, CLARA! LET'S DO THAT THING WE TALKED ABOUT.

OKEY-DOKEY.

PERIOD!

PERFECT!



OZMA DIDN'T THINK THUMBELINA COULD BE ANY HELP TO THE TEAM. GOOD THING I WAS ABLE TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO HER.



WHAT'S THIS?!

END OF SENTENCE!

ALL ON THEIR OWN, SHE AND CLARA CAME UP WITH THE IDEA TO MESS WITH HIS INNER EAR AND WRECK HIS SENSE OF BALANCE.



YOU SEND MINIATURE WARRIORS TO REND AND TEAR AT ME FROM THE INSIDE?!

AND IT WORKED! THAT'S WHEN THE TIDE OF BATTLE TURNED IN OUR FAVOR.



FINE, THEN! HAVE YOUR WISH!

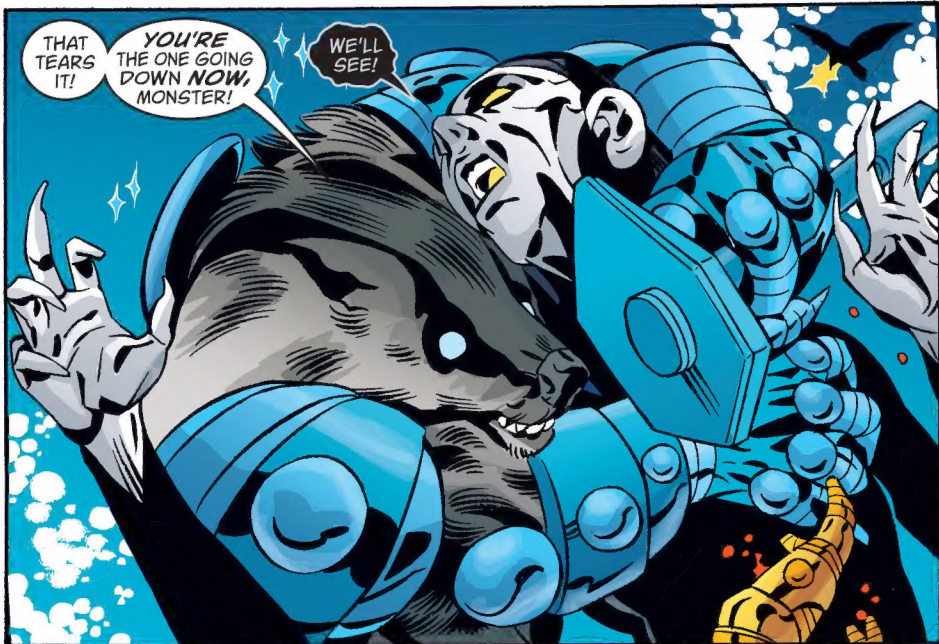


IF YOUR PLAN IS TO BE INSIDE OF ME, I INVITE ALL OF YOU TO ENTER THE DARKNESS AND SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT!

GULP!



SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE TO GO DOWN IN SEVERAL PIECES, THOUGH!

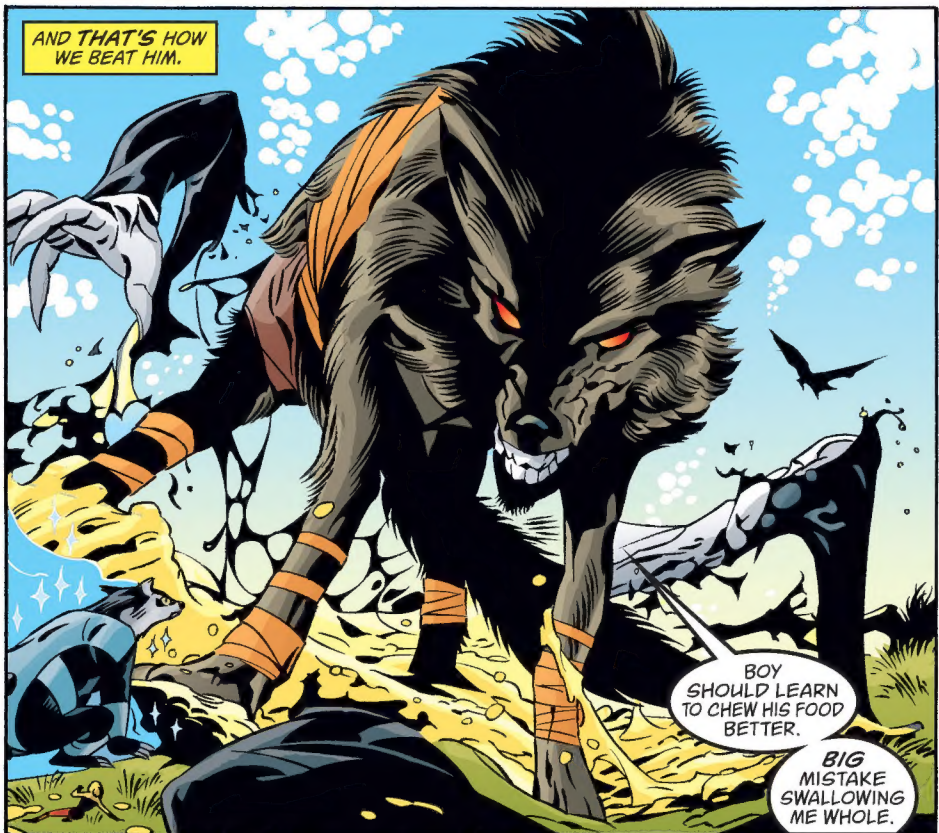


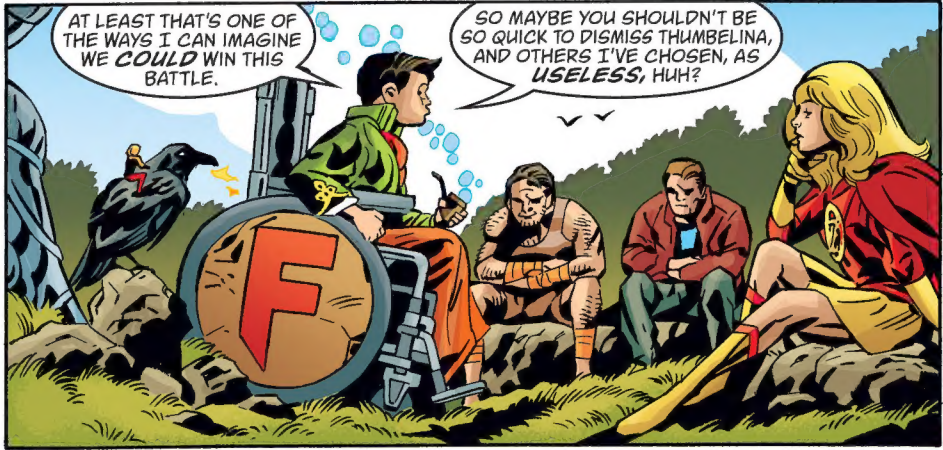
THAT TEARS IT!

YOU'RE THE ONE GOING DOWN NOW, MONSTER!

WE'LL SEE!







AT LEAST THAT'S ONE OF THE WAYS I CAN IMAGINE WE *COULD* WIN THIS BATTLE.

SO MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO QUICK TO DISMISS THUMBELINA, AND OTHERS I'VE CHOSEN, AS *USELESS*, HUH?



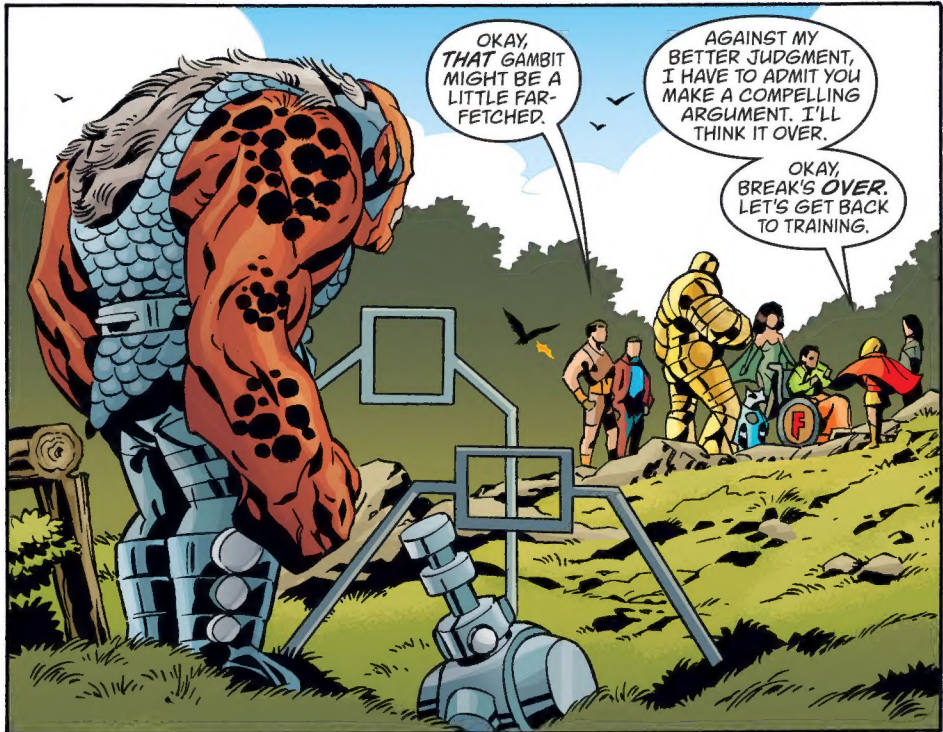
YEAH, IF MISTER DARK'S AT ALL LIKE US, THE "ATTACK HIS INNER EAR" THING MIGHT WORK.

MIGHT NOT.



WE SHOULD TRY IT, THOUGH. WE SHOULD TRY EVERYTHING WE CAN THINK OF, INCREASING THE CHANCE THAT *SOMETHING* MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE THE THING THAT DOES THE TRICK.

SO HOW DO WE MANEUVER HIM INTO TRYING TO SWALLOW YOU WHOLE?



OKAY, THAT GAMBIT MIGHT BE A LITTLE FAR-FETCHED.

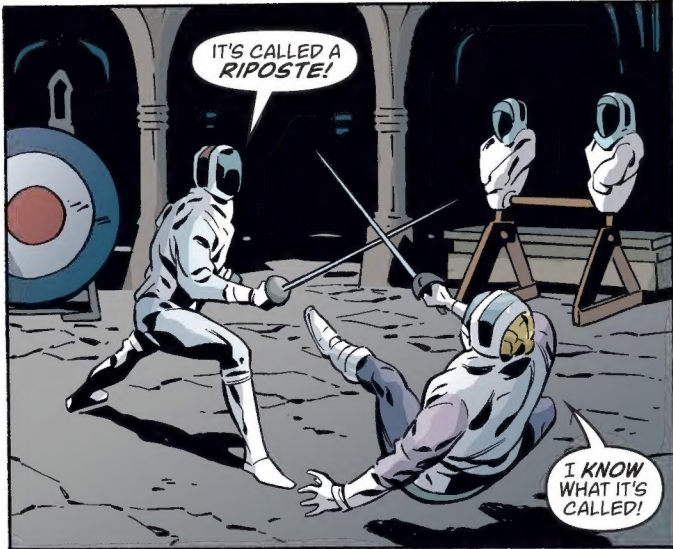
AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT, I HAVE TO ADMIT YOU MAKE A COMPELLING ARGUMENT. I'LL THINK IT OVER.

OKAY, BREAK'S OVER. LET'S GET BACK TO TRAINING.



CASTLE DARK.

GOOD PARRY!
NOW PRESS YOUR COUNTER-ATTACK!



IT'S CALLED A RIPOSTE!

I KNOW WHAT IT'S CALLED!



I'M NOT STUPID, AND I'LL THANK YOU TO QUIT TREATING ME LIKE I AM.

I'M NOT TREATING YOU IN ANY WAY EXCEPT AS A STUDENT TO MY INSTRUCTION.

HERE. LET ME HELP YOU UP. WE'VE STILL A LONG WAY TO GO TODAY.

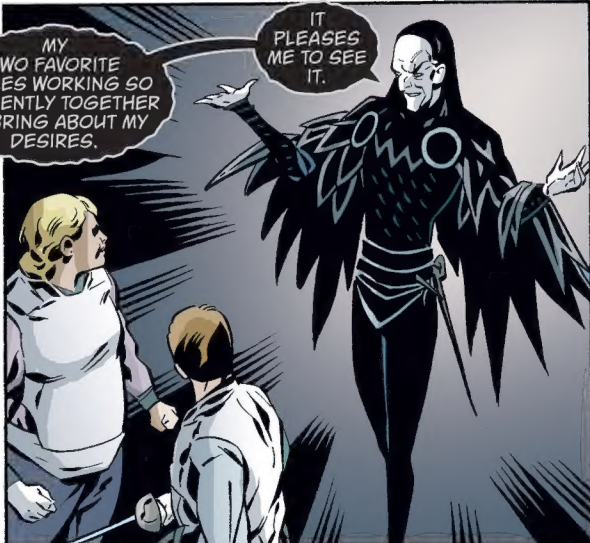


KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF!



I'M NOT SO FAT I CAN'T GET UP ON MY OWN!

BRAVO!

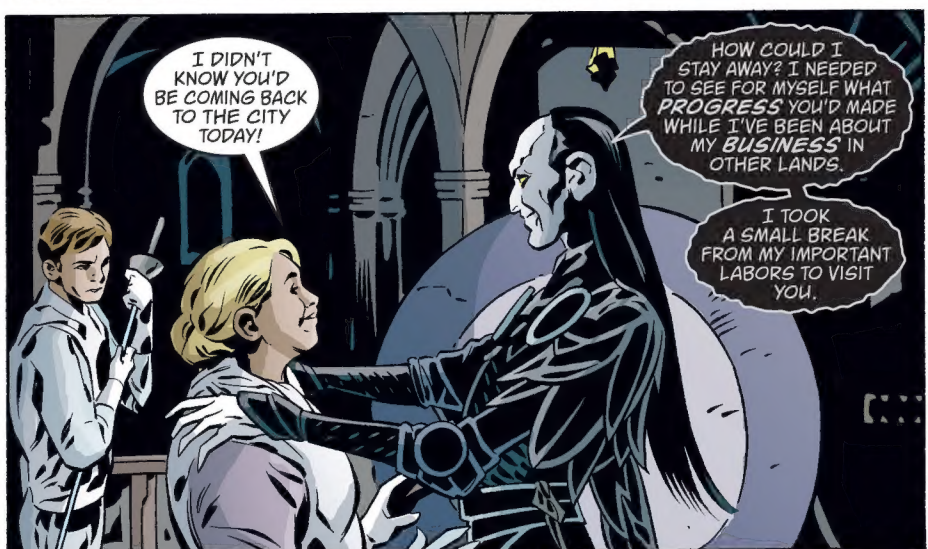


MY TWO FAVORITE FABLES WORKING SO DILIGENTLY TOGETHER TO BRING ABOUT MY DESIRES.

IT PLEASES ME TO SEE IT.



YOU'RE HERE!



I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE COMING BACK TO THE CITY TODAY!

HOW COULD I STAY AWAY? I NEEDED TO SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT PROGRESS YOU'D MADE WHILE I'VE BEEN ABOUT MY BUSINESS IN OTHER LANDS.

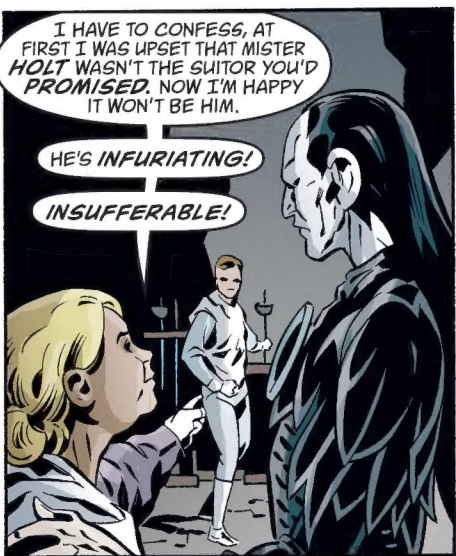
I TOOK A SMALL BREAK FROM MY IMPORTANT LABORS TO VISIT YOU.



LET ME LOOK AT YOU.

MARVELOUS!

IN SCANT TIME YOU'LL BE SLIM AND LOVELY, AND READY TO RECEIVE THE TENDER ATTENTIONS OF YOUR HANDSOME PRINCE.



I HAVE TO CONFESS, AT FIRST I WAS UPSET THAT MISTER HOLT WASN'T THE SUITOR YOU'D PROMISED. NOW I'M HAPPY IT WON'T BE HIM.

HE'S INFURIATING!

INSUFFERABLE!

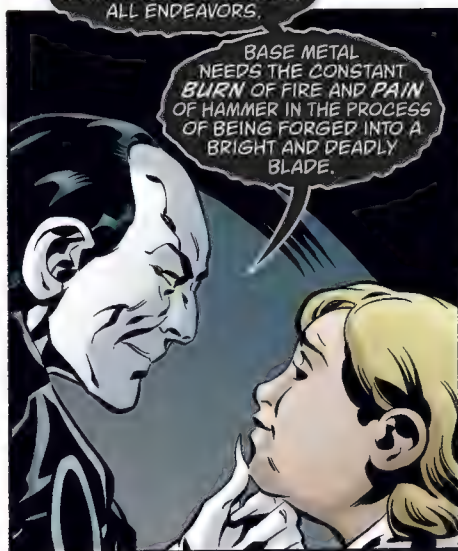




THERE, THERE, MY DEAREST DOVE. WERIAN HOLT'S PURPOSE ISN'T TO **WOO** YOU, AND CERTAINLY NOT TO **ADD** TO YOUR COMFORT.

LIKE YOU, HIS **SOLE** FUNCTION IS TO SERVE MY **WILL**.

TRANSFORMATION IS THE MOST DIFFICULT OF ALL ENDEAVORS.

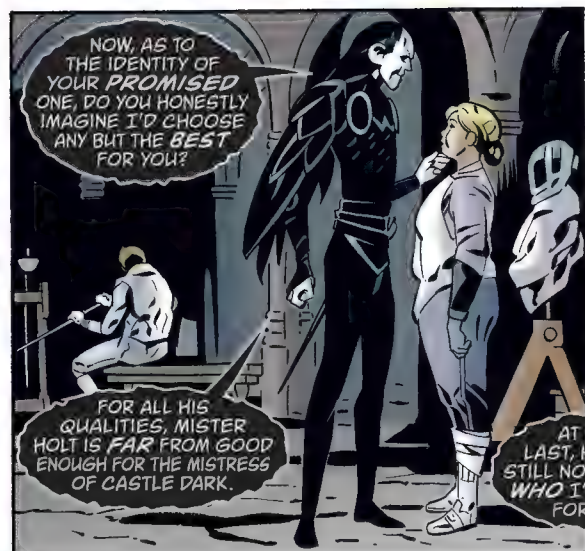


BASE METAL NEEDS THE CONSTANT **BURN** OF FIRE AND **PAIN** OF HAMMER IN THE PROCESS OF BEING FORGED INTO A BRIGHT AND DEADLY BLADE.



IF YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME ONE OF MY WEAPONS, YOU'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO ENDURE HIS VIGOROUS INSTRUCTION, AND KNOW IT'S FOR THE BEST.

I'LL TRY, BUT--



NOW, AS TO THE IDENTITY OF YOUR **PROMISED** ONE, DO YOU HONESTLY IMAGINE I'D CHOOSE ANY BUT THE **BEST** FOR YOU?

FOR ALL HIS QUALITIES, MISTER HOLT IS **FAR** FROM GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE MISTRESS OF CASTLE DARK.



AT LONG LAST, HAVE YOU STILL NOT REALIZED **WHO** I'VE IN MIND FOR YOU?

HAVEN.

THE TRAINING SESSION CONTINUES.

WAP!

YOW!
THAT'S NOT GOOD.





FLY!

WHUNDA!



HELP THE KING!



IS HE ALIVE?

ARE YOU OKAY, FLY?

I... THINK... SO.



THE GOLDEN ARMOR DID WHAT IT WAS DESIGNED TO DO--KEEP ME FROM HARM, EVEN IN THE FACE OF AN ATTACK TERRIBLE IN ITS FURY. GOOD MAGIC IN IT.

I'M JUST A BIT SHAKEN IS ALL.



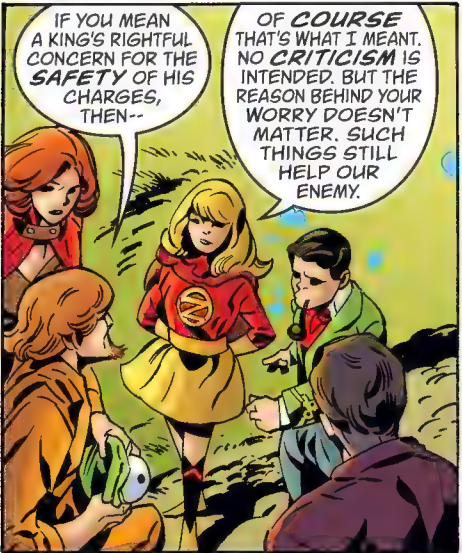
BUT EVEN THOUGH THE ARMOR WORKED FINE, I'M SORRY TO ADMIT ITS DRIVER DIDN'T MEASURE UP.

I'M TOO DISTRACTED BY OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES SUCH AS SECURING THE BORDER OF HAVEN TO GIVE FULL ATTENTION TO LEARNING HOW TO CONTROL THE SUIT.



I CAN'T CONTINUE TO TRAIN WITH YOU AND STILL KEEP THE DARK MAN AT BAY.

TRUE. I REGISTERED A SHARP SPIKE OF **FEAR** FROM YOU JUST BEFORE GRINDER LANDED HIS LUCKY BLOW.



IF YOU MEAN A KING'S RIGHTFUL CONCERN FOR THE **SAFETY** OF HIS CHARGES, THEN--

OF **COURSE** THAT'S WHAT I MEANT. NO **CRITICISM** IS INTENDED. BUT THE REASON BEHIND YOUR WORRY DOESN'T MATTER. SUCH THINGS STILL HELP OUR ENEMY.



WE CAN'T HAVE IT. I'M SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T HAVE **YOU** ON THE TEAM, KING AMBROSE.

THAT **SUCKS!** THE GOLDEN KNIGHT WAS GOING TO BE OUR TOP **TOUGH** GUY FOR DIRECT CONTACT WITH MISTER DARK.



LOSING HIM SERIOUSLY **CRIPPLES** OUR CHANCES, OZMA.

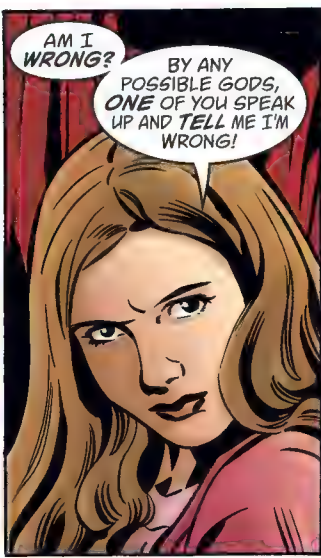
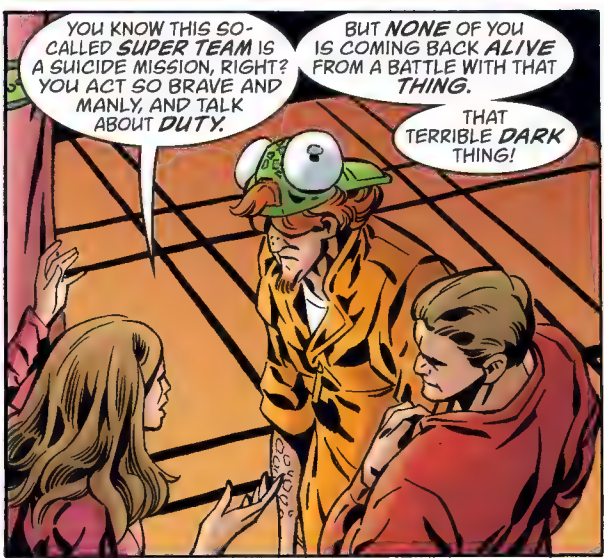
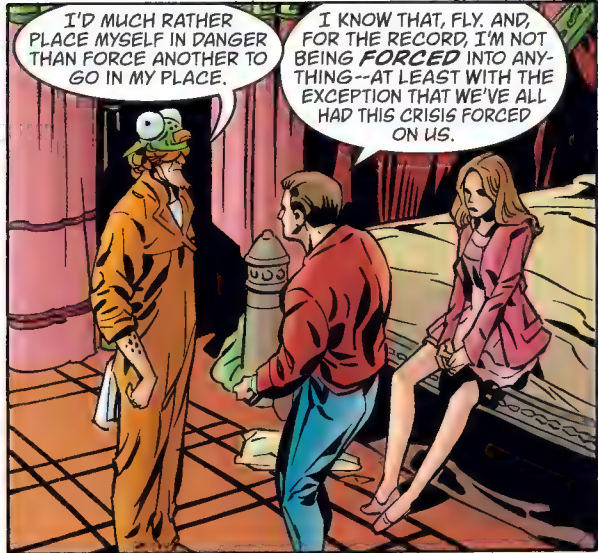
THEN WE SHOULDN'T LOSE THE GOLDEN KNIGHT, SHOULD WE? THERE'S NO **REASON** I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN LEARN TO USE THE ARMOR.



IT DOESN'T REQUIRE A SORCERER. THE MAGIC IS ALREADY BUILT INTO IT. ANY STALWART WITH A FEARLESS **HEART** MIGHT DO.

TRUE. AND SINCE THE SHERIFF MEASURED **BEST** IN THAT REGARD, BEFORE THE LOSS OF HIS POWER DISQUALIFIED HIM...

HUH?

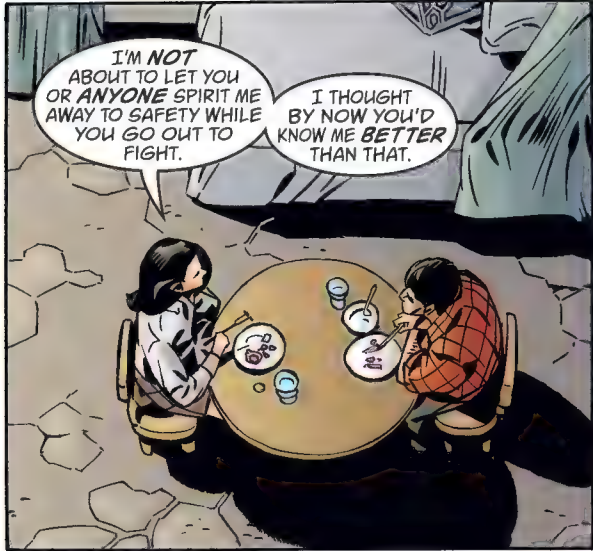




AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME...

GO AWAY?

ARE YOU INSANE?



I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU OR ANYONE SPIRIT ME AWAY TO SAFETY WHILE YOU GO OUT TO FIGHT.

I THOUGHT BY NOW YOU'D KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT.



I KNOW. YOU'RE DETERMINED TO STAND BY ME, AND I LOVE YOU FOR THAT.

AND IT MIGHT COMFORT YOU TO KNOW THAT, THE MOMENT OUR FIGHT ENDS, THE MOMENT WE FALL, MISTER DARK IS LOOSE IN HAVEN.

AND BELIEVE ME, THAT'S THE MOST CERTAIN OUT-COME.



WITH NO ONE LEFT TO STOP HIM, AND NOWHERE ELSE TO RETREAT TO, YOU WON'T SURVIVE ME BY MORE THAN AN HOUR OR TWO.



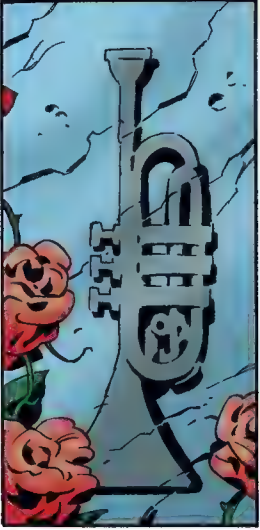
EVERYONE WHO'S HERE NOW DIES, BARRING A MIRACLE, THAT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.

WE'VE GONE AWFULLY SHORT ON MIRACLES LATELY. I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FOR ONE. DO YOU?



I STOPPED BELIEVING IN MIRACLES THE DAY FLY SHOWED UP, FLUSHED WITH ALL THAT POWER, TO SAVE BOY BLUE AT THE LAST MINUTE.

YEAH, THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT SO HOT, DID IT?



YES, WE WILL GO INTO BATTLE AGAINST MISTER DARK, FIGHT HIM **BRAVELY**, AND THEN FALTER AGAINST HIS OVERWHELMING POWER.

I'VE ALREADY FORESEEN THAT MUCH.

AND THEN, JUST AS WE'RE LEFT WITHOUT ANY HOPE OF VICTORY, BOY BLUE WILL ARRIVE IN GLORY, AND **SMITE** THE DARK ONE.

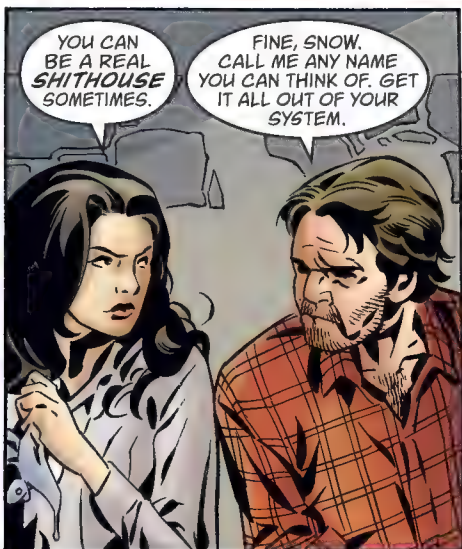
LAST NIGHT, ASLEEP IN MY SETT, I FORESAW THAT AS WELL.

OUR LAST-SECOND MIRACLE IS ALREADY A WRITTEN FACT. **GUARANTEED.**



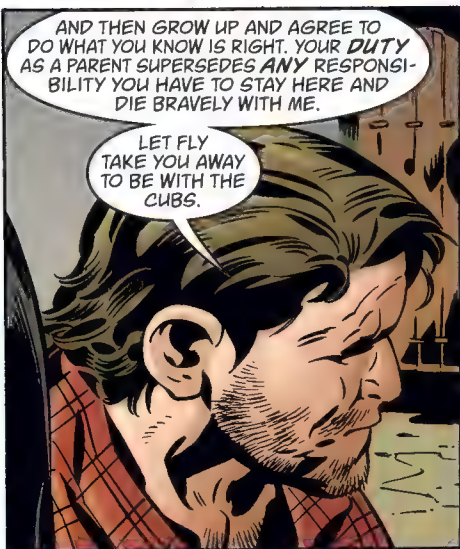
THANK GOODNESS OUR KIDS ARE SAFE WITH THEIR GRAND-FATHER.

TOO BAD THEY'RE NOW DOOMED TO GO THROUGH LIFE MISSING BOTH PARENTS, RATHER THAN ONE.



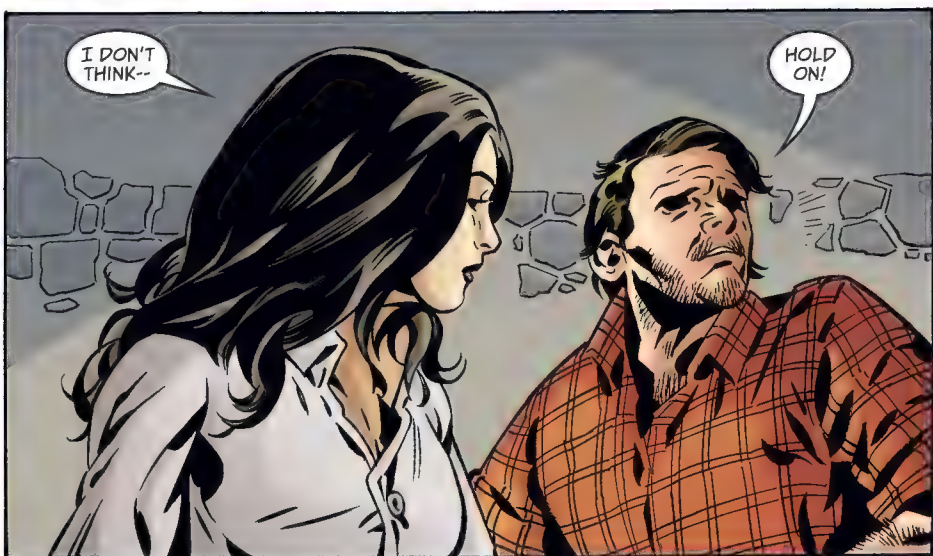
YOU CAN BE A REAL SHITHOUSE SOMETIMES.

FINE, SNOW. CALL ME ANY NAME YOU CAN THINK OF. GET IT ALL OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM.



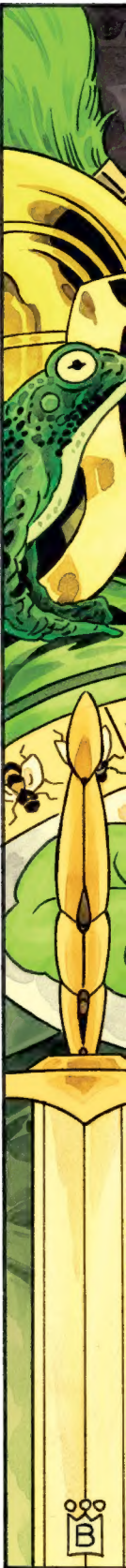
AND THEN GROW UP AND AGREE TO DO WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT. YOUR DUTY AS A PARENT SUPERSEDES ANY RESPONSIBILITY YOU HAVE TO STAY HERE AND DIE BRAVELY WITH ME.

LET FLY TAKE YOU AWAY TO BE WITH THE CUBS.



I DON'T THINK--

HOLD ON!



FATHER!

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT? WHY AREN'T YOU HOME GUARDING MY CUBS?

IT'S TIME TO SETTLE THINGS, SON.

YEARS AGO YOU PROMISED ME, IF YOU EVER FOUND IT NECESSARY TO FIGHT ME AGAIN, YOU'D MADE PREPARATIONS TO MAKE SURE YOU'D WIN.

NOW'S THE TIME TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, IF YOU CAN, FOR I'VE COME TO KILL YOUR SON.

WHERE'S GHOST? DELIVER HIM TO ME NOW, OR STOP ME BEFORE I CAN FERRET HIM OUT.

ONE OR THE OTHER.



NEXT: ALL BAD THINGS!

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BILL WILLINGHAM

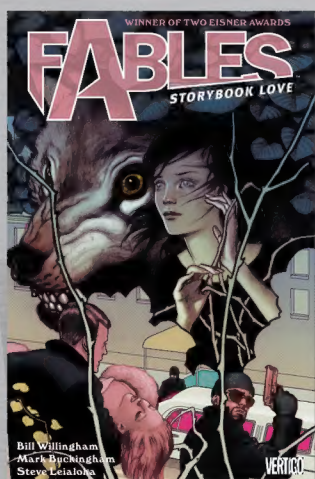
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- VOL. 6: HOMELANDS
- VOL. 7: ARABIAN NIGHTS (AND DAYS)
- VOL. 8: WOLVES
- VOL. 9: SONS OF EMPIRE
- VOL. 10: THE GOOD PRINCE
- VOL. 11: WAR AND PIECES
- VOL. 12: THE DARK AGES
- VOL. 13: THE GREAT FABLES CROSSOVER
- 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



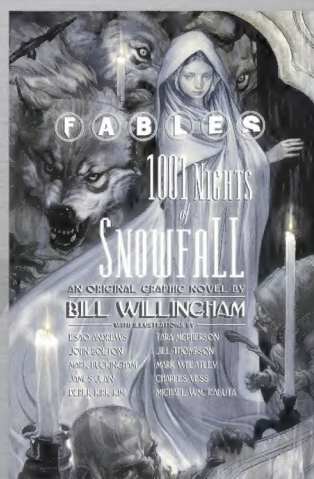
FABLES VOL. 3:
STORYBOOK LOVE



FABLES VOL. 6:
HOMELANDS

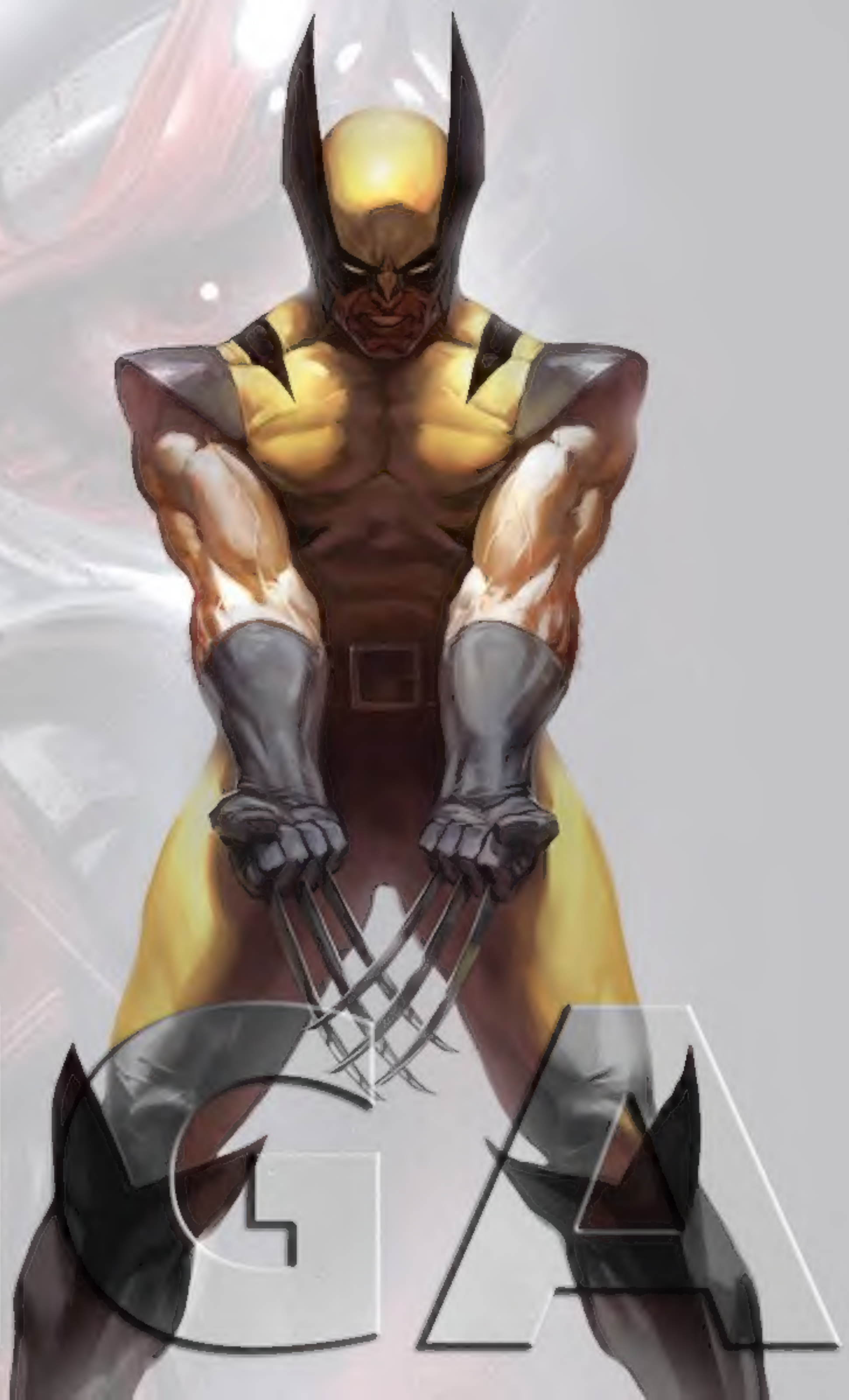


FABLES:
1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



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